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RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 0482
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RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RUEHC/DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC
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SUBJECT: NIGERIA: NEW MINISTERS ANNOUNCED

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1. (SBU) President Umaru Musa Yar'adua administered the oath of office to his 39-member cabinet on July 26 at the presidential villa in Abuja. The President gave a stern warning that the Administration will not tolerate corruption and indiscipline in the public service. The ministers were officially assigned their portfolios after a 3-week nationally televised screening by the Nigerian senate.

2. (SBU) As expected, the appointments represent a balance of the complex interests of several constituencies: geographical zones, gender, religion, ethnicity and party affiliations. The newly appointed Ministers of Finance, Labor, Health, Justice, Commerce and Information are generally considered well-qualified and a good fit for their new portfolios. On the other hand, the press has criticized the appointment of Ministers of Education, Defense, Transport, Foreign Affairs, Tourism, and the Federal Capital Territory, claiming the professional backgrounds of the new ministers are not appropriate to the portfolios. Like President Obasanjo before him, Yar'adua will retain the Minister of Energy portfolio; Ministers of State for Energy have been appointed to cover petroleum, gas and power.

3. (SBU) Bode Augusto, a nominee from Lagos State and former Special Adviser to President Obasanjo was rejected by the senators for his "contempt and arrogance." Reports indicate he told Senators during his screening that "his eight year-old daughter could answer the questions" he was being asked. The position of Minister of Works remains unfilled and it is believed this position will be held for Augusto's replacement, who will also come from Lagos State.

4. (SBU) The new ministers are:

Attorney General, Minister of Justice -- Michael Kaase Aondokaa

Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources -- Sayyadi Abba Ruma

Minister of State, Agriculture and Water Resources -- Adamu Maina

Waziri

Minister of Commerce and Industry -- Charles Chukwuma Ugwu

Minister of State, Commerce and Industry -- Ahmed Garba Bichi

Minister of Culture and Tourism -- Adetokunbo Kayode

Minister of State, Culture & Tourism -- Aliyu Idi Hong

Minister of Defense -- Mahmud Yayale Ahmed

Minister of State, Defense -- Fidelia Akuabata Njeze

Minister of Education -- Igwe Aja-Nwachukwu

Minister of State, Education (1) -- Agada Anthony Jerry

Minister of State, Education (2) -- Aishatu Jibril Dukku

Minister of Energy - President Umaru Musa Yar'adua

Minister of State, Energy (Power) -- Fatima Balarabe Ibrahim

Minister of State, Energy (Petroleum) -- Henry Odein Ajumogobia

Minister of State, Energy (Gas) -- Odusina Olatunde Emmanuel

Minister of Environment and Housing -- Halima Tayo Alao

Minister of Federal Capital Territory (FCT) -- Aliyu Modibbo Umar

Minister of State, Federal Capital Territory (FCT) -- John James Akpanudoedehe

Minister of Finance -- Shamsudeen Usman

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Minister of State, Finance -- Aderemi Babalola

Minister of Foreign Affairs -- Ojo Maduekwe

Minister of State, Foreign Affairs (1) -- Tijani Yahaya Kaura

Minister of State, Foreign Affairs (2) -- Bagudu M. Hirse

Minister of Health -- Adenike Grange

Minister of State, Health -- Gabriel Yakubu Aduku

Minister of Information and Communication -- John Ogar Odey

Minister of State, Information and Communication -- Ibrahim Dasuki Nakade

Minister of Interior -- Godwin Abbe

Minister of State, Interior -- Hassan Haruna

Minister of Labor -- Hassan Mohammed Lawal

Minister of Mines and Steel Development -- Sarafa Tunji Isola

Minister of State, Mines and Steel Development -- Ahmed Mohammed Gusau

Minister of Transport -- Deziani Alison-Madueke

Minister of State, Transport (2) -- John Okechukwu Emeka

Minister of Science and Technology -- Grace Ekpiwhre

Minister of Youth Development -- Akinlabi Olasunkanmi

Minister of Women Affairs -- Saudatu Usman Bungudu

Minister/Deputy Chairman National Planning Commission -- Muhammed
Sanusi Daggash

Minister/Chairman, National Sports Commission -- Abdulrahman Hassan
Gimba

GRIBBEN